

Message Text

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21

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11 RSC-01 ISO-00

IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 MMS-03

DRC-01 /171 W

----- 101086

R 071812Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1055

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0060

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : MARR, UK, US, BA

SUBJECT : DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION

REF : STATE 22764

1) AFTER COORDINATING WITH ME, BRITISH AMBASSADOR ROBERT TESH ON FEBRUARY 6 INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH MOHAMMAD ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION. WHEN I DID SO ON FEBRUARY 7, MOHAMMAD EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR BEING INFORMED AND SAID THE GOB FULLY UNDERSTOOD WHY USG FELT OBLIGED TO REACT TO SOVIET MOVES. WHILE HE DID NOT ACTUALLY EMPLOY THE WORD, MOHAMMAD'S TOTAL REACTION SEEMED TO WELCOME OUR PLANS RE DIEGO GARCIA.

2) THE FOREIGN MINISTER RECALLED AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH, IN WHICH THE LATTER HAD SAID THAT IN INDIA'S VIEW THE INDIAN OCEAN "ZONE OF PEACE"

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CONCEPT INCLUDED THE GULF. MOHAMMAD CLAIMED TO HAVE RETORTED

THAT AS FAR AS BAHRAIN WAS CONCERNED, THE INDIAN OCEAN IS ONLY
AN EXTENSION OF THE GULF.

3) COMMENT:

IN VIEW OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S UNENTHUSIASTIC ATTITUDE
TOWARDS CONTINUED PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN OF OUR MIDDLE EAST FORCE,
WE DO NOT KNOW QUITE WHAT TO MAKE OF HIS GENERALLY FAVORABLE
REACTION TO OUR DIEGO GARCIA PLANS. HOWEVER, THE THOUGHT
DOES OCCUR THAT LOCAL OPPONENTS OF MIDEASTFOR MAY BE ABLE TO
ARGUE WITH THOSE WHO FAVOR ITS CONTINUED PRESENCE THAT LOSS OF
THE BAHRAIN NAVAL FACILITY WILL NOT REALLY HURT THE AMERICANS
IN VIEW OF EXPANDED FACILITIES THAT WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN
DIEGO GARCIA.
KILLGORE

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NNN

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